



# ABINGDON

From: Teacher of Geography and School Exchange Coordinator: Amy Atkinson

6 November 2015

Dear Parents,

## **School Exchange with Chaminade College Preparatory School, St Louis**

For the third year running we are inviting all Third and Fourth year pupils to partake in cultural exchange with pupils from Chaminade College Preparatory School, St Louis, Missouri.

The value of a cultural exchange has been widely underestimated. This style of trip offers pupils the opportunity to develop outside of a school environment, meet new people and learn about other ways of life. Furthermore, cultural exchanges inspire, enhance and enrich the way in which they see the world. We live in an increasingly "Americanized" culture, and through our exchange program, our students have the opportunity to stay in a typical American home and attend a religion-based school with a tradition of academic excellence, athletic skill, and artistic talent. This trip offers the boys all of this whilst also giving them the opportunity to see the many sights that St. Louis has to offer.

Once selected for the exchange (unfortunately we can accept no more than 12 Abingdon pupils on a first come, first served basis) the boys will be carefully matched with an American pupil who shares similar interests.

### **The Itinerary:**

Attached is a provisional itinerary which includes the fantastic St Louis Science Museum (a completely interactive where you can do everything from watching a 4D film about the woolly mammoths to learning to fly a plane!), Blueberry Hill; the home of Chuck Berry, visiting the ancient Indian burial grounds and St Louis Zoo.

During this time boys will live with their partner and their families at their homes in St Louis, Missouri. Two Abingdon members of staff will also be staying with host teachers, and are contactable at any time.

### **Dates**

*Home leg:* The Chaminade boys will be in the UK and staying with the Abingdon boys between Friday 26 February and Sunday 6 March 2016. During this time they will spend some time in school and then take day trips out. The Abingdon pupils will not accompany the boys on the trips therefore, minimising lesson time disrupted.

*Outward Leg:* The boys will leave the UK on Friday 8 April until Saturday 16 April. There is no clash with the CCF trip therefore, ALL boys from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year are able to attend if they wish.

### **Cost**

The provisional cost of the trip will be £900. This price allows for minor variations in the cost of flights since the budget was assessed. Any substantial changes in flight price will need to be accounted for, though you will be informed of any changes made.

This price is based upon a minimum of 12 students joining this trip. Should this number not be reached, the trip will either be cancelled or the total cost may change. If this situation were to occur, we would ensure you were fully aware of any changes.

This costing includes:

1. Flights
2. Travel to and from school to the airport (Gatwick)
3. Travel whilst in the USA
4. Meals whilst at Chaminade
5. Entrance fees and transport to day trips in St. Louis
6. Bowling or a meal out, in the UK with the American exchange pupils.

Additional costs not included:

1. Additional food and drinks
2. ESTA – visa's for the pupils entering the USA
3. Spending money

This trip will be covered by the Schools Comprehensive travel insurance policy.

As you can see the trip looks to not only cover a wide range of cultural experiences but to give opportunities for the boys to partake in every part of American life. It is also a fantastic opportunity to develop independence and confidence in new environments whilst being supported every step of the way. This is the ideal first trip away for those many boys who will not have travelled away from home before, or a new experience for those seasoned travellers among us.

If you would like to reserve a place for your son on this trip I will require a deposit of £400 along with the slip attached to this email. This is refundable if the trip does not go ahead but non-refundable once the process of booking the trip commences. One additional payment of £500, to make up the remaining balance will be made on the Michaelmas term school bill.

Please note that by completing the consent form (providing the trip proceeds) you are committing to the total cost of this trip. The non refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The balance of payment being applied to your School bill is a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

The deposits and forms need to be returned to me by no later than, Friday 13 November 2015

If you have any further enquiries about this trip please do not hesitate to contact me – email is probably the best method.

Yours sincerely



Amy Atkinson

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[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

**American Exchange Trip – Easter 2016**  
**Please return to Miss Amy Atkinson**

I would like to reserve a place for my son (name)

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Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

on the forthcoming trip to St Louis, USA.

I enclose a cheque (payable to Abingdon School) for £400 as a deposit (refundable if the trip does not take place; non-refundable once the trip is confirmed).

I understand that 1 additional payment (£500) will be charged to my Michaelmas term school bill.

Signed :

Please print your name:

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**Additional information:**

Son's name as it appears on his passport

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Passport Expiry Date

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Please note that by completing the consent form (providing the trip proceeds) you are committing to the total cost of this trip, the non refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

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